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INSURANCE NOTES

A DANISH SYNDICATE

The Northern Insurance Syndicate of Copenhagen, with main offices in that city, has been organized by a powerful group of Danish shipowners and merchants for marine business. The London branch has a capital of £560,000 with reserves exceeding £370,000, and assets of more than £1,000,000. Deposits made with the British Bank of Northern Commerce protects policy-holders. The concern has no connection whatever with German interests.

OTHER DANISH COMPANIES

New companies with offices in Copenhagen are: the Boreal Reassurance Company, for general re-

insurance business; the Danish Rea Insurance Company, for fire, casualty, and reinsurance business; the United Reinsurers, for reinsurance; Freja Insurance Company, for machine and reinsurance; Hugin Insurance Company, for reinsurance; the Hypothek Insurance Society for City Real Estate, for mortgage insurance in Copenhagen; Nerva Reinsurance Company, mainly for life insurance; Pax Reinsurance Society, and the Russian-Scandinavian Reinsurance Company.

VISIT OF INSURANCE OFFICIAL

Wilhelm Koch, managing vice-president of the Alf L. Whist group of insurance companies in Christiania, has just visited the United States on business, spending most of his time in the East and the Northwest.

Developments of Importance to Investors

are occurring at frequent intervals. We have a department designed to advise investors of favorable or unfavorable influences affecting the securities they own or may be interested in. To test the value of the service we render, send the name of any stock or bond to the writer, and we will provide you with data regarding it.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,

Of the American-Scandinavian Review, published monthly at New York, N. Y., for April 1, 1920.

State of New York } ss.
County of New York }

Before me, a notary public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Henry Goddard Leach, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the American-Scandinavian Review, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:
 Publisher—The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 25 West 45th street, New York.
 Editor—Henry Goddard Leach, 25 West 45th street, New York.
 Managing editor—Henry Goddard Leach, 25 West 45th street, New York.
 Business manager—Henry Goddard Leach, 25 West 45th street, New York.
2. That the owners are (give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock):
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5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date shown above is: (This information is required from daily publications only.)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of March, 1920.

HENRY GODDARD LEACH.

MARY F. SULLIVAN.

(N. Y. County Reg. No. 1448, Kings County Reg. No. 1148, Notary Public Kings Co. No. 412, Certificate Filed N. C. Co., No. 301, Commission Expires March 30, 1921.)

FINANCIAL NOTES

*Notes About Issues in the Financial World
Most Interesting to Readers of the Review*

"DENMARK"

A distinctive contribution to economic literature on Denmark is the 32-page booklet entitled "Denmark" issued by Brown Brothers and Company and prepared by the Statistical Department of that house. This is a very real study of the agriculture, commerce, and finances of contemporary Denmark, based upon a profound accumulation of fact and statistics but presented in a readable well-rounded style. It is made further attractive by copious illustrations from a carefully selected portfolio of photographs, by a map, and by the embossed arms of the three Danish lions in colors. A few quotations will best serve to indicate the value of the treatment:

"Denmark is one of the few nations of the world which at the present time have a surplus of food available for export. The large financial reserves accumulated during the period of high prices of the last five years are being utilized in extending the commerce of the country and in bringing about more normal conditions in its agricultural industry."

"In 1914 Denmark was the largest exporter of butter in the world. There were 1,503 dairies with an aggregate annual production of about 128,742 tons of butter and 17,123 tons of cheese. It is interesting to note that, due to the scientific methods of feeding employed by the Danish farmers, the average annual yield of milk per cow amounted in normal times to 6,400 pounds. This compares with a record of 3,700 pounds in the United States."

"The signing of the armistice brought an end to the period of Denmark's isolation. The Danish farmers turned to their former markets for the purchase of corn, oil cakes, and fertilizers. Total imports from the United States in 1919 including transit goods amounted to \$163,965,478 as compared with \$11,353,845 in 1918."

"Contrary to general expectations, no great falling off in revenue from Danish shipping occurred after the signing of the armistice. The continued world demand for tonnage brought large earnings to Denmark's merchant marine during 1919. . . . As of June 30th, 1919, Denmark had a merchant fleet of 702,436 tons with 57,771 tons under construction."

"The wealth of the Danish people in 1919 was officially estimated for taxation purposes at \$2,583,520,000 and their annual income at about \$658,744,000. In 1909 the corresponding amounts were \$1,225,641,000 and \$197,246,000 respectively. . . . The average savings bank deposit as of March 31st, 1919, was approximately \$258. With the thrift which is characteristic of the Danish people, the profits derived from the war have thus been accumulated as a reserve to provide for the future requirements of the commercial and agricultural development of the nation."

The Danish minister, Chamberlain C. Brun, has expressed his satisfaction with the accuracy and justified optimism of this study. "Denmark" may be obtained by application to Brown Brothers and Co., 59 Wall Street, New York.

SHIPPING CLAIMS BEING SETTLED

Claims of the Danish and Norwegian officials against the U. S. Shipping Board for materials used during the war and other items are understood to be practically adjusted at the present time. There have been several differences over the amounts that would be paid, and the State Department was called upon by the Shipping Board, it is said, for assistance in dealing with the Danish and Norwegian claimants. The largest claims are those of the Norwegian interests. Figures of the adjustments have not yet been made public.

THE IRVING SERIES

Number thirty-seven in the series published by the Irving National Bank as a contribution to public thought upon questions relating to national prosperity is a pungent little treatise on "Industrial and Economic Unrest of To-day." The bank also publishes a readable and serviceable "Mid-Month Review of Business."

A NORWEGIAN LOAN

Apropos the proposal of a new State loan in Norway *Morgenbladet* points out that, whereas a year ago all foreign markets were closed except the United States, now, due to the exchange situation, even that market is shut, so that the loan must be raised entirely at home. The paper reminds its readers of the foresight of Sweden last summer in placing a \$25,000,000 loan in the United States.

SLESVIG EXCHANGE

Citizens of the redeemed districts of Slesvig are to be recompensed by the Danish Government for the losses in pensions and the low exchange value of the mark. A maximum of 96,000,000 kroner will be allowed for this purpose, representing 1,380,000,000 marks. This will mean an average of 350 kroner per inhabitant. The Government will also grant loans to small business houses in the province to the amount of 10,000,000 kroner.

RAPID GROWTH

The Swedish Centralgruppens Emissionsaktiebolaget shows a rapid growth in capitalization. It began business in 1915 with a capital of 3,000,000 kronor, which has, in the course of the years, been multiplied by eightfold. A dividend of 20 per cent was distributed last year.

GOLD SHRINKAGE

A recent report of the Swedish Riksbank shows a decrease of 9,000,000 kronor in the reserve of bullion. This seems to be the result of the export of gold to improve the Swedish rates of exchange.

HO FOR THE OIL BURNERS

From Göteborg we learn of a new eight million kronor company for the purpose of securing crude oil and distributing it to the ships and industries of Sweden. Among the founders are the well known shipping men Messrs. Broström, Carlsson, and Metcalfe. Preliminary agreements have been made with the owners of American oil fields. In this connection it is well always to remember that to enterprising Danes and Swedes we in America owe our introduction to oil burning steamers.

OLD PRIVILEGE.

The Long Arm of Service

Not only has the war drawn the great nations of the earth together, multiplying their contacts and mutual helpfulness—its emergencies have created new relations in business and emphasized the interdependence of all the activities of trade and industry.

The line separating banking functions from those of production and distribution has lost much of its sharpness. In response to its customers' needs, the commercial bank has developed machinery and methods for handling many processes beyond the reach of the average business organization.

In dealing with emergency demands for service in export and import affairs, the Irving's Commercial Department approaches the matter from the customer's angle and considers his advantage first. Its wide experience in handling shipments, documents, insurance, warehousing and the like, safeguards the customer's interest at every stage of the transaction.

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MAY NUMBER

ANDERS ZORN on his sixtieth birthday, February 18, received a full measure of homage. His artist colleagues, Prince Eugen, Liljefors, and others, sent him presents of their works. His neighbors serenaded him with an old Mora song arranged by Hugo Alfvén, and Zorn thanked them in the genuine Mora dialect. In memory of his birthday, he presented a new painting entitled *Peasant Woman Playing the Lute* to the National Museum.

EDWIN BJÖRKMAN needs no introduction to REVIEW readers. He is at present offering a series of lectures, including discussions of the Americanization problem in various phases, and interpretations of Scandinavian literature. Among the latter are "The Optimism of Ibsen," "Strindberg as a Moral Tonic," "Modern Scandinavian Literature," and "The Scandinavian Drama Since 1860." Mr. Björkman was in Sweden during the years 1915-17 as representative of the British Department of Information and had an opportunity to study political currents there at first hand.

HANS AANRUD is the author of several collections of short stories from peasant life and is one of the most original of present day Norwegian writers. He is represented in English, so far as we know, only by a charming little story "Lisbeth Longfrock," translated by Laura E. Paulsson, and by a Christmas story, "The Bird-Catchers," in the Yule number of the REVIEW a year and a half ago. The translator, SIGURD BERNHARD HUSTVEDT, is author of the SCANDINAVIAN MONOGRAPH *Ballad Criticism in Scandinavia and Great Britain*.

JON OLAFSON is probably the northernmost poet of America. In 1874 this voluntary exile from Iceland was led by his wanderlust to visit Alaska, and at Kodiak Island he composed in his native tongue a sonnet dedicated to Alaska. It appeared in a small book of verse which he published in Reykjavik in 1896, and in this manner came into the hands of the translator, SKULI JOHNSON, professor of Classics at Wesley College in Winnipeg. Jon Olafson died in 1916.

VICTOR OSCAR FREEBURG, who saw active service during the war in command of a United States submarine chaser, has recently been made editor of the *Swedish-American Trade Journal* in New York. His writings include books on stage drama and pictorial composition in the photoplay.

WILLIAM RICHARDS has just returned from Copenhagen, where he was a scholar of the American-Scandinavian Foundation and was also employed in the American Legation. He is now Secretary of Students at the headquarters of the Foundation in New York.

The Danish poet EDVARD LEMBCKE spent a number of years in the South Jutland town Haderslev as a teacher. His work there terminated with the German conquest, in 1864, but he retained his interest in Slesvig. His poem printed to-day in the translation of JANE CAMPBELL was inspired by the national Danish awakening in the middle of the last century. Lembcke is very widely known as the translator into Danish of Shakespeare's complete works.



From a Painting by Anders Zorn

A GIRL OF MORA

THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

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MAY, 1920

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Sweden Under Socialist Government

By EDWIN BJÖRKMAN

Political matters are speeding up in Sweden, but only in a logical, orderly fashion, along parliamentary lines: a process of evolution, not of revolution, with the country's strongest man at the helm, ready to fight the extremists of either side.

"We have now got so far," said Hjalmar Branting in opening the national congress of the Swedish Socialist party at Stockholm on February 10, "that we have a democratic regime in this country, and for the future the Swedish people will more than ever determine their own development. There are no forces left in this country capable of checking this development."

In discussing continued co-operation with the Liberal party, he said later: "Everybody knows how important it is to the workmen of Sweden that a just solution of the local tax question be found. At this point, however, we seem to face divergencies that may render an agreement impossible."

At that time the air was full of rumors about a cabinet crisis. It came to a head, when the government placed its proposition for local tax reform before the Riksdag. The bill, which was drawn in accordance with the Socialist ideas, placing the burden on big landed property rather than on earned incomes, met with strong Liberal resistance. Hjalmar Branting immediately served warning on his Liberal allies, declaring that his party "was ready to use its whole strength for the quick enactment of thoroughgoing tax reforms, and that it was also ready to assume any responsibilities incident to such reforms."

The Edén coalition cabinet, made up of six Liberals, four Socialists and one Independent, resigned on March 5. Five days later an all-Socialist cabinet headed by Hjalmar Branting himself took up the

reins of government. It is the first cabinet of its kind in Swedish history, but this is not its only claim to distinction.

It is a cabinet of young men—an astonishingly youthful body, indeed. The average age of the eleven members is forty-four years and a few months. Branting himself is 60, while his minister of finance is 55 and his minister of agriculture is 57. The rest are under 50. The minister of justice is 34; the minister of war, 35; and the two ministers without portfolios are both 36.

It is largely a cabinet of workmen. Only six of its members have ever worn that white cap of the university student which in the past was regarded as indispensable to any graduation into the ruling classes. The minister of the navy is a plain metal worker, and yet a man of long and wide experience in public affairs. The minister of war began life as an errand boy, having had four years of study in a public grammar school, and the minister of finance was once a cobbler. The minister of civil affairs, though himself an editor, is married to the daughter of a workman, and the minister of agriculture is an ordinary farmer, not widely known outside of the party councils.

Yet one may turn right about and wonder at the presence in such a cabinet of a noble and betitled foreign minister, whose father was chief master of ceremonies at the Swedish court and who himself holds a high rank in the Swedish navy. The head, Branting, springs from a fine old family of commoners, while several other members are the sons of pedagogues of various degrees.

The formation of this government marks the climax of Branting's career since the days in the late seventies, when, as a young man of independent means and an astronomer of promising attainments, he dared to give open allegiance to the newly formed Socialist party, then headed by a crippled Danish tailor just moved into the country. Almost from the first, he became the brains and the guiding spirit of the party. It has been built by him more than by any other man, and to him goes largely the credit of having kept the Swedish Socialist party solidly arrayed against all efforts to introduce "direct action" on behalf of a "dictatorship of the proletariat." Time and again he has been called a "bourgeois," and if a preference for dealing with facts rather than with theories be held the test, then he is a "bourgeois."

The foreign minister, Baron Erik Palmstierna, held the naval portfolio in the resigned coalition cabinet. Like a majority of the members of the new government, he has been active for many years in public affairs and has belonged to the Riksdag for nearly a dozen years. His allegiance to the Socialist party dates back to 1910 and created a sensation when declared. During the war both he and Branting stood consistently for a new orientation of Swedish foreign policy toward the west. Both have had many friendly relations with Germany, and

yet both fear the German influence in Swedish affairs more than anything else.

The new minister of justice, Professor Östen Undén, is the youngest member of the cabinet, but also, it is said, one of the most brilliant. He is a remarkable example of the very fine type of Socialists produced in astounding numbers by the highly conservative Swedish universities. Both on account of his radical opinions and his known sympathies for the Western powers during the war, a strenuous fight was made against him when he sought the appointment as professor of jurisprudence at Uppsala a few years ago; but his qualifications were such that Swedish traditions, which are remarkably high in such matters, made his appointment inevitable. Shortly afterward he was called to become a consulting minister in the Edén coalition cabinet.

The minister of war, P. Albin Hansson, was editor of the *Social-Demokraten* at Stockholm — the chief party organ — when appointed, and has for several years acted as the chief lieutenant of Branting in the management of that paper. He was not a member of the Riksdag until 1917, when he was elected to the second chamber. During the war he visited England and France. What the officers of the Swedish army will say and do about his appointment will be worth watching, although the chances are that they will accept the inevitable with as bad grace as they dare display. However, matters are changing in that quarter, too. Last January a meeting of 400 officers and non-commissioned officers was held at Stockholm, under the chairmanship of Colonel Breitholz, to discuss the question of sufficient pay for the army. The most remarkable feature of this gathering was the presence of non-commissioned officers.

What has been said about the minister of war must be said with added emphasis about the new minister of the navy, J. Bernhard Eriksson, a metal worker from Grängesberg, who never had a day of general schooling in all his life, but who, for all that, possesses a great deal of knowledge as well as ability. It is well to remember that the Swedes like the Scots are great autodidacts, and the length of time spent at school is no sure test of a man's erudition. Eriksson has devoted most of his time to public affairs for many years, and his service on some of the most important committees in the Riksdag is a fairly certain proof of his familiarity with problems of state.

The minister of civil affairs, Carl E. Swensson of Eskilstuna, is another editor. During the war he served with conspicuous ability on the commission appointed to procure and distribute supplies throughout the country. The minister of finance, Fredrick V. Thorsson, held the same position in the resigned coalition cabinet, having succeeded Branting when the latter was forced by ill-health to resign. He

is generally recognized as one of the ablest leaders within the Socialist party, and was for a little while mentioned as the probable prime minister. What is more, this former cobbler is also admitted to be one of the foremost financial experts in the country.

The minister of ecclesiastical affairs, Olof Olson of Göteborg, is a high school teacher who holds over from the Edén cabinet. Of the minister of agriculture, Olof Nilsson of Tånga, Skåne, little is known but that he has long played an important part within the party, giving particular attention and support to its extension among the agricultural population. Of the two consulting ministers, Richard J. Sandler is best known, being regarded as one of the ablest publicists on the Socialist side. When the new law went into effect, providing for a political secretary to serve as a connecting link between the minister and the permanent officials in every government department, Sandler was appointed to this post in the department of finance. His colleague, Torsten K. V. Nothin is a justice of the superior court and head of the legal bureau in the department of finance.

While recent developments in Sweden have made the formation of a Socialist government the next logical step, and while the acceptance of such a ministry by the King marks the final surrender to the principles of constitutional government, it is hard to foretell the outcome. The opposition among the old privileged classes is tremendously strong, and at the same time signs are not wanting that the employers, who are splendidly organized in Sweden, would like to nullify as much as possible of the reform legislation enacted by the coalition government. Their opposition is particularly directed against the eight-hour day, recently made legal for every trade within the entire country. This opposition led only a short time ago to the declaration of a lockout following a strike in the metal industries. The new cabinet and the Socialist party stand squarely for enforcement of the new law as well as for a pay equal to that previously paid for a day of nine hours.

Nevertheless the future is uncertain. No party has a majority in the Riksdag, although the Socialists are the most numerous. Of the 380 members in both houses, 94 are Conservatives, 32 Agrarians, 105 Liberals, 136 Majority Socialists, and 13 Minority Socialists. In most cases the Agrarians will side with the Conservatives, raising the number of that group to 128, while the two Socialist groups are likely to be found together on vital questions. While the old coalition lasted, there were 254 Radicals and 126 Conservatives. Should a new line of cleavage be drawn, there will be 231 "Bourgeois" against 149 Socialists. There are elections coming during the year, however, and Branting apparently expects considerable gain for his party. So far he has rarely proved a bad character in such matters.

Asea and Västerås

By a Staff Correspondent

There is a park on a hill overlooking the old Swedish town of Västerås where citizens have raised slabs of stone recording each a favorite quotation. More often they memorialize the almost religious love of the Swedish people for their military past or their remoter antiquity. Thus one stone reads: "War is an element in God's world-ordering." But among these monuments to Swedish patriotism which crown the Djäkneberget the visitor will suddenly chance upon a stone in English, with a quotation from Robert Browning: "Why stay we on the earth unless to grow?" This passage from a British poet has been placed in the park by an American woman, the wife of the director of the great electric company which in these latter days has made Västerås its home. It is an epitome of the modern spirit of Swedish engineering, erecting besides the hoary runes of a forgotten past the towering transmitters of electric current which presage an unknown future. The spirit of America and the zeal of modern Sweden are one, albeit the latter makes haste more slowly, often to its advantage,—“Why stay we on the earth unless to grow?”

Vestra Aros was the original name of the ancient town, "western river mouth," in distinction to Östra Aros, now the modern Uppsala at the mouth of Fyris River. It lies where the little river Svartån empties into Mälaren, across whose waters extensive trade was conducted, through the centuries with Stockholm, and sometimes with foreign lands. A comfortable drive out in the suburbs will bring the curious to Runic stones still standing upon the graves of heroes of old. In the cathedral are buried King Erik XIV and the Protector Svante Sture. The most celebrated date in the history of the city was the meeting at Midsummer, 1527, when Gustav Vasa proclaimed the Reformation in Sweden, and the rich lands and properties of the Church passed in large part to the Crown. The castle also is historic; here is the dungeon which held captive, in 1573-74, the unfortunate King Erik XIV. Here the kings of the Vasa race and their families often had their dwelling. Västerås is the capital of a province, and in its castle, now surrounded by rose bushes, dwells the Governor. The present holder of this title is descended from one of the Scottish families of the Swedish aristocracy. Walter Murray looks like an English name, but when pronounced in Swedish it is quite unrecognizable and "Sir Walter," a charming and cultured gentleman with firm executive ability, has forgotten the tongue of his British forbears.

Architecturally, Västerås is full of interest, both old and new. The river with its embankments gives variety to the streets, and the lake a



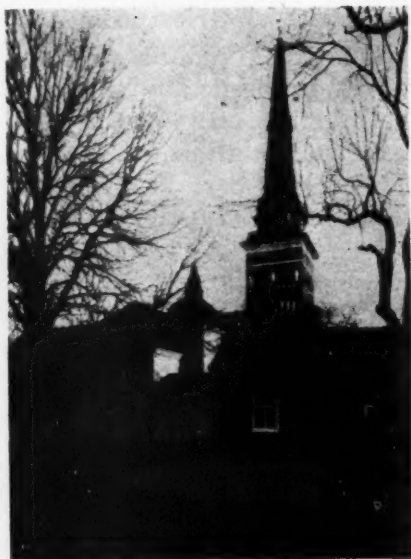
A BIT OF THE CASTLE WHICH HAS DEFIED THE TOOTH OF TIME.
IN THE FOREGROUND THE OLD MILL

pleasing contrast of blue water and green islands. The cathedral is a noble building, the oldest portion Romanesque, the later Gothic. Internally it has suffered from having been restored in an era of poor taste; a pity that this work could not have waited the present period of interior decoration! Nestled about the cathedral are a number of old brick buildings from cloister days. Near the cathedral tower, designed by Tessin the Younger, is the tower of the new City Hall, the work of the talented modern architect of Västerås, Erik Hahr. The City Hall is a complex of harmonious buildings, including festival hall, hotel, restaurants, and two banks—typical of the genius of contemporary Swedish architecture.

The castle is a severe rectangular structure which on near approach



LOOKING TOWARD LAKE MÄLAR FROM THE STEEPLE OF THE CATHEDRAL



THE CHURCH, THE SCHOOLMASTER'S HOUSE, AND THE LIBRARY—A PLEASANT COMPLEX OF BUILDINGS

does not look like a castle at all, but when seen rising above its trees from Lake Mälär, has a suggestion of the simple but harmonious lines which make the Royal Castle of Stockholm so beautiful. In the residences of the town also the old and new are contrasted. There are rambling streets in the ancient quarter, and windows opening out on waterways. The new residences of the engineers and prosperous citizens of Västerås are in keeping with current Swedish good taste. This is due in a large measure to the genius of the town's own architect, Erik Hahr.

Into the staid provincial environment of Västerås there descended toward the end of the nineteenth century two huge industrial corporations, the Swedish General Electric Company and the Swedish Metal works. Why and wherefore? It was the combination of a geographical accident and a forceful personality, which have now both disappeared. Just when Västerås got its first electric lights, an energetic citizen, Mr. O. F. Wijkman, observed that there was enough water power in the little stream to keep a small plant of those days running. In short, the young giant of Allmänna Svenska moved into Västerås and took up its chief abode there in 1892. The little mill-race has long since failed to supply power for this industry, which has gone farther and farther away from home for its energy, and now its electric force is transmitted from the distant falls of Älvkarleö for which Asea has supplied the generators. Over acre and acre this electrical plant has grown until it employs perhaps five thousand engineers and technicians; it has branch offices the world over

Into the staid provincial environment of Västerås there descended toward the end of the nineteenth century two huge industrial corporations, the Swedish General Elec-



A WATER COLOR OF 1870 GIVES A GOOD VIEW OF PRÄSTGATAN, AN OLD CORNER OF THE TOWN

and is, outside of Germany, Europe's largest electrical company.

The Swedish General Electric Company, Allmänna Svenska Elektriska Aktiebolaget, is known everywhere in Sweden by its initials "A. S. E. A." for short. The manufactures of Asea form a very important part of Sweden's export trade, and through its branches in Norway, Denmark, Finland, Russia, England, Spain and other countries, and factories in London, Christiania, and Jaroslav, and its agents everywhere, almost every civilized country on the globe has access to this company's output of the articles which prevail on the electrical market. These range from the smallest household utensil to the largest electrical machines. The company's magazine, *Aseas Egen Tidning*, with its monthly circulation of over 7,000 copies, has for eleven years recorded rapid growth and scientific achievement at Västerås, noting, for example, an expansion of capital from five million kronor in 1908 to one hundred million kronor in 1918. It is to the able editor of this magazine, Mr. A. W. Henning, that the REVIEW is indebted for much of the information, and for the photographs of Asea, contained in this sketch.

In its gigantic scheme of organization, Asea owns woods which yield the necessary fuel, and waterfalls which produce the necessary energy to work its own mines, blast furnaces, and iron works. Mines at Norberg, blast furnaces at Spännarhytan, the Surahammar iron works (one of the largest in Sweden) with its woods, as also the Sörstafors paper mill and the cable factory at Liljeholmen, are a part of the Asea system. This ensures a uniform standard in the raw materials handled in manufacture.

Swedish iron is used exclusively, and a rigorous system of testing every finished article before it leaves the works has doubtless done much to win for this firm the reputation for reliability to which is ascribed the wide range of export markets it enjoys. Conspicuous in this department of the work is the testing of finished rotors at a speed that can never be reached in the field under even the most abnormal conditions. Because such tests are dangerous, the rotor being liable to burst and cause great damage, concrete vaults have been built for the small and medium-sized motors, and a test pit for the larger ones, so that if a big rotor does disrupt in a "run-away" test, the pieces of steel will be imbedded in the wooden lining or the inner concrete structure or even the thick layer of sand which protects the outer walls of the pit, and no fragments will be thrown around the shop.

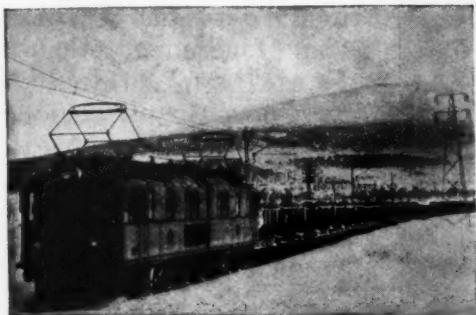
Asea triumphs both in and out of Sweden with alternating current generators, which it has standardized and designed so as to be adaptable to many special requirements. These generators are made with horizontal or vertical shafts, open or enclosed, with speed from the lowest up to 3,000 revolutions a minute. The Swedish Government power



MIMER FACTORY FOR SMALL ELECTRICAL MACHINES. (ASEA AT VESTERÅS)



EMAUS FACTORY FOR LARGE ELECTRICAL MACHINES. (ASEA AT VESTERÅS)



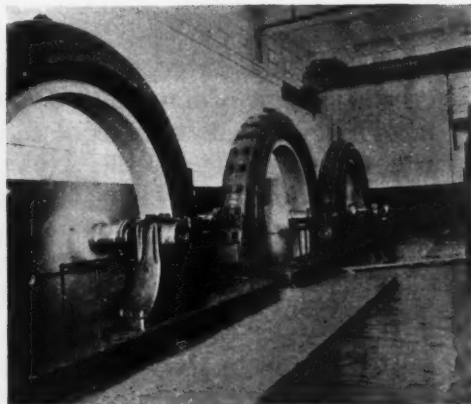
AN ELECTRIC ORE TRAIN IN LAPLAND. MUCH OF THE MATERIAL FOR THE GRADUAL ELECTRIFICATION OF THE RAILROADS OF SWEDEN IS MANUFACTURED AT VESTERÅS



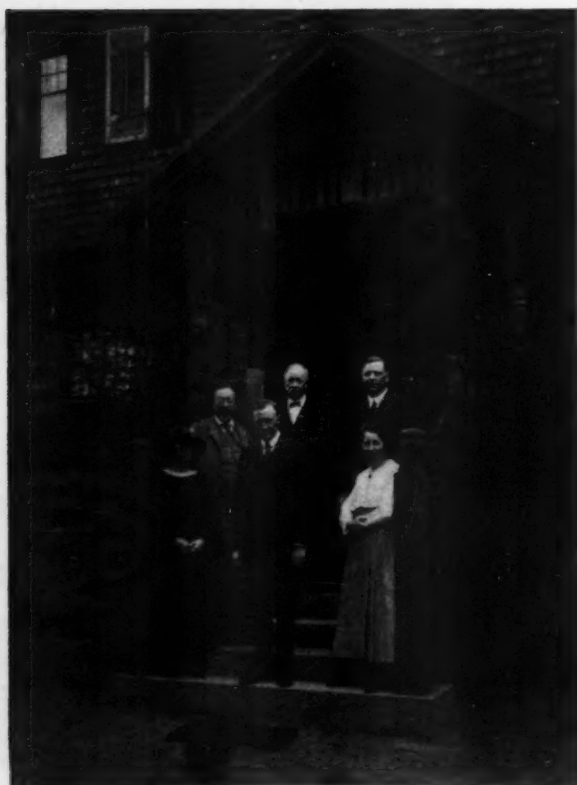
ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OF ASEA'S ACTIVITIES, A TEN-TON TRESTLE CRANE FOR TRANSPORTING PULP TIMBER



150,000 KVA ASEA ALTERNATING CURRENT GENERATOR, ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT INSTALLATIONS, IN THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT POWER STATION AT TROLLHÄTTAN FALLS



A MODEST INSTALLATION BY ASEA IN AMERICA: THE E. B. EDDY POWER STATION AT HULL IN QUEBEC (11,250 KVA). SWEDISH ELECTRICAL MACHINERY IS EXPORTED TO SPAIN, TO INDIA, IN SHORT THE WORLD OVER



GUESTS AT VILLA ASEÅ, DIRECTOR EDSTRÖM'S RESIDENCE AT VÄSTERÅS. MR. EDSTRÖM IS STANDING ON THE RIGHT IN THE REAR

stations at Trollhättan, Porjus, and Älvkarleby are now equipped with them, as are also a large number of power stations in Canada, Cuba, Mexico, South America, England, Russia, Spain, Australia, Japan and South Africa. What are probably the largest generators of their kind in the world are the two of Asea make delivered in 1918 to the Norwegian Government Glomfjord Power House: they have an output of 22,000 kilowatts. Asea generators have been sent to the spinning mills of Bombay, India.

The present general advance in engineering has made new strides in every department of electrical machine manufacture, and in 1916

Asea took up the pace with particular reference to transformers. In 1918 the Swedish Government alone ordered 250, and special mention should be made of the newly developed water-cooled, oil-insulated type, the two largest of which were made for the Älvkarleby Transmission System and have an output of 5,000 kilowatts each at a voltage of 6,300/70,000 volts, 50 cycles. Alternating current motors, converters, direct current machines, and commercial instruments and household apparatus of many types, daily swarm into being, in the huge high-ceilinged Asea shops.

Out under the Northern skies Asea electric locomotives and motor carriages roll in their appointed ways, in large numbers and varying sizes for main line service, suburban railways, industrial transport, and mining use. The most powerful locomotive in Sweden, 2500 horsepower, is one of many which Asea has delivered to the Riksgräns Railway. Asea is also supplying the equipment for the electrification of Lapland railroads. There are at present in the world a total of

some 1400 Asea electric lifts, installed in private and office buildings, mills and shops, in sizes varying from 50 to 10,000 kilograms. Great traveling cranes also make their way out of Västerås; up to the beginning of 1918 a total of 800 had been made there, and the demand for them has since been increasing.

Oil playing, as it does, an important part in modern high-tension work, and its value as an insulator being greatly depreciated by the presence of water and impurities during use, Asea has put on the market an electric oil filter press which is designed to fill a long-felt want at power stations and factories.

The administration of these manifold activities is now fittingly housed in a new Administration Building, where your correspondent had the pleasure of attending the first meeting held in a circular directors' room up in a tower. (See cover.) This brick structure in Sweden's latest architectural design is surely unsurpassed in beauty by any office building in the world. The administration itself, by way of being human and not wholly absorbed in turning out products of iron and steel, helped reduce the shortage of meat during the war, and at the same time assisted in the food problems of the office staff by establishing a rabbit warren of one hundred breeding rabbits!

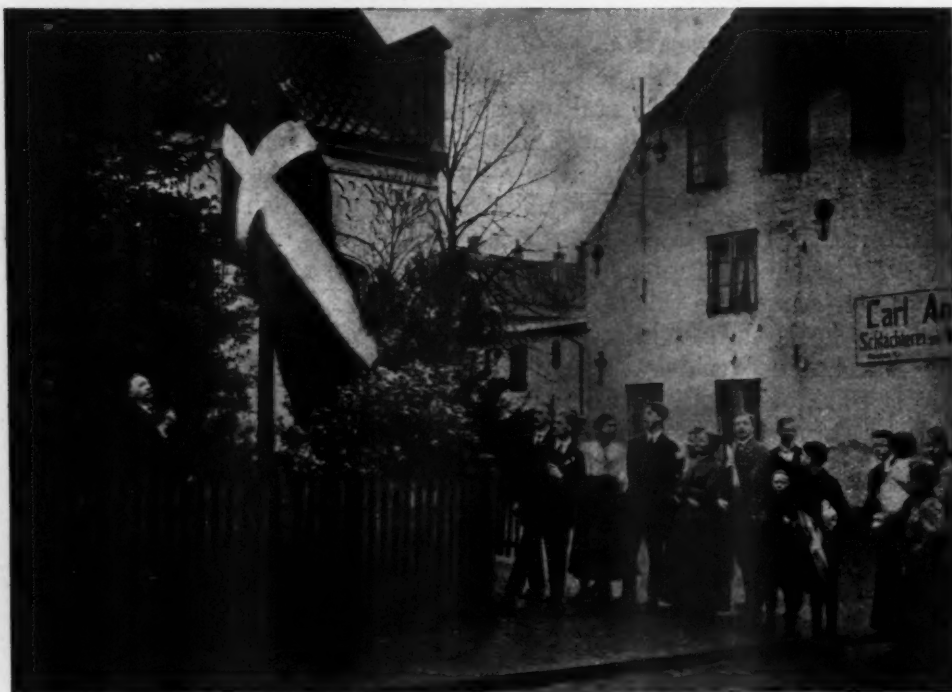
The managing director at the helm of all this enterprise is, as one might readily suppose, a commanding figure in the industrial life of Sweden. He is a man of vigorous physique and warm human sympathies, modest in his deportment, always placing his own personality in the background and the full vigor of his service to the front in whatever committee or undertaking he assists. His healthful interest in sports, together with his organizing ability, has made him the natural chairman of the world's International Athletic Association until the next Olympiad. J. Sigfrid Edström is a Swedish engineer with an American training and an understanding of the essentials in the average American character. In 1919 he was one of the organizers of the Swedish-American Foundation. To his English and American friends he is simply known as "Edström of Västerås." In his hospitable home presides the American hostess who had inscribed in the quiet park overlooking the busy acres of industry the inspiring motto, "Why stay we on the earth unless to grow?"



H. P. HANSSEN-NÖRREMÖLLE

Slesvig Pictures

The ovation that was given H. P. Hanssen upon his return to Copenhagen after the Plebiscite in the First Zone, when he was carried on the hands of the populace, was a tribute to twenty years of firm and patient leadership of the North Slesvig cause. He has been from 1906 till now a deputy in the German Reichstag. His newspaper "Hemdal," published in his home in Haderslev, has been a sane exponent of Danish rights. As organizer of the varied societies by which the Slesvigers have kept alive their Danism, he has become popularly known as "Our Hans Peter." When the Plebiscite was definitely decided on, he became a member of the Danish Government as Minister for South Jutland, to superintend the administrative work necessary to make the reunion complete.



MINISTER HANSSEN HOISTING THE DANNEBROG IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE IN HADERSLEV



PROCESSION OF CHILDREN IN HADERSLEV CARRYING DANISH, ENGLISH, AND FRENCH FLAGS.
HADERSLEV VOTED DANISH, FEBRUARY 10



FRENCH SOLDIERS, OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS, ENTERING HADERSLEV AND PASSING THE STATUE
OF THE KAISER NOW SWATHED IN SACKCLOTH



COPENHAGEN DECKED WITH FLAGS AND GARLANDS ON PLEBISCITE DAY



Fru JESSEN, WIDOW OF THE INTREPID EDITOR OF "FLENSBORG AVIS," WELCOMES THE FRENCH OFFICERS, AND HANDS THE MAJOR A BOUQUET OF RED AND WHITE LILACS. THE OFFICE OF "FLENSBORG AVIS" WAS WRECKED BY GERMANS THE DAY AFTER THE VOTE IN THE SECOND ZONE



FLENSBURG FROM THE STERN OF THE DANISH CHRISTMAS SHIP "HAAKON," WHICH BROUGHT FOOD IN FIVE-POUND PACKAGES TO GERMANS AND DANES ALIKE



DANISH BOY SCOUTS VISITING FLENSBURG, THE OLD DANISH CITY WHICH HAS NOW "GONE GERMAN"

When the Wild Geese Fly North

By HANS AANRUD

Translated from the Norwegian by SIGURD BERNHARD HUSTVEDT.

Under the large solitary mountain ash on the hill just south of the farmstead, Ivar stood with both hands deep in his breeches pockets, peering across the valley toward the southern horizon.

No doubt about it, spring was in the air. The snow had crept away from each little incline that faced the north and had withdrawn its white barricade far up the mountainside; each slope that turned to the south and all the spacious reaches of field and meadow were quite clear; breathing mists rose from the earth in the gentle sunshine. The magpies still scolded at the lingering chill of winter in the small grove of fir-trees above the house, but out in the fields the crows walked solemnly about, lifting their wings as if it were really too warm and gorging themselves on the grubs lured to the surface by the sun; along the furrows—Peer Madslien was already at his plowing on South hill—the wagtails, true birds of spring, twittered and flapped their tailpieces. On the trees hung woolly buds, not yet ripe for bursting, and here and there at the edges of the field sturdy little yellow flowers raised their heads. From the hillocks in the grazing-grounds below came the hoarse sound of a cow-bell, broken by quick, sharp tones from the bells of the lesser animals, and, piercing through it all, a single, long-drawn, melancholy note from a willow whistle—the shepherd lad had not been slow in finding a wand that he could peel. The air was filled with random noises, blended together in the concord of spring,—the colors of the landscape were still poor, wintry, and distinct in their boundaries till they were swallowed up in white above the fir-line high on the mountainside. It was a quiet day, moist and warm; but when a gust of wind stirred, it was keen and icy cold.

Ivar shouted down to the young herdsman; he shouted back, and at once blew a sustained, captivating note on his whistle. The witchery of the hour so cast its spell on Ivar that he felt unable to stand still, to remain at his post near the house; he lifted his foot to run down the slope, but as he did so he raised his eyes once more toward the cleft in the mountains to the south.

He drew his foot back, stood stock still with open mouth, jerked his hands out of his pockets, and shaded his eyes.

There they were!

Just above the defile he saw a small dark streak; it came sailing on, evenly, steadily, high in the air, forward without pause.

It was the first flock of wild geese, for which Ivar had been keeping watch these many days.

His cheeks flushed, he turned as if to run into the house, but changed his mind; it would be such fun to stay and see them pass by.

The flock came on, and bent its course slightly toward the western edge of the valley, apparently rising as it drew nearer. Soon he was able to distinguish the individual birds; a great strong fellow flapped away a yard or two ahead of the others as a guide, and behind him followed the rest, converging in two lines upon their leader. How steadily and surely they flew, beating the time with their wings!

When they were just in front of him, he was overcome by a desire to disturb the regularity of their flight. Both his mother and grandmother had told him never to do so, but before he knew it he was standing with one hand stretched out, pointing at the flock.

In a moment one of the foremost staggered out of ranks, then another, and still another; they drifted apart, swooped downward, slackened their speed; it seemed as if they had suddenly lost their strength and fallen into the greatest disorder.

Long-drawn, discordant cries broke the silence. The birds dipped aimlessly out of their lofty course and, strangely enough, appeared to be dropping from all quarters of the heavens.

Ivar was at once seized with a panic fear, as if he had done something very wrong—he knew only too well that it was a sin to point at wild geese in flight. He began to mumble the Lord's Prayer—he had heard that this was the one thing that would do any good.

Immediately the leader took a few powerful strokes and, regaining his position, turned a bit toward the east; one by one the others fell into place behind him, a laggard caught up at the rear, and presently the whole flock was winging its measured way northward.

Ivar stood fixed to the spot, turning his head to follow their passage, and finished his prayer just in time to nod at the "Amen" as they glided over the bluish line of the spruce forest far to the north and at length were lost to sight.

To the boy it seemed as if all his happiness had vanished with them; but he might as well go in and tell grandmother about it, anyway.

In her own little room his grandmother, old Beret Madslien, sat in an armchair muttering to herself. Small and bent with years, she kept her accustomed station between the stove and the bed, carefully wrapped up in knitted shawls, her feet encased in heavy knit stockings, and her head covered by a dark plaid kerchief bound over knit ear-muffs. The door to the living-room stood ajar, and through it came the sound of muffled voices. Beret mumbled something to herself, laboriously pushed aside one ear-muff, and listened.

Hm! Hm! Oh, yes, they would take good care to speak in low tones, so that she should not hear them! What in the world were all

these secrets they were so interested in? Well, they need not imagine that they should escape so easily!

"Oline!"

No answer. She took her stick from its corner by the stove, and pounded on the floor.

"Oline!"

"Yes—here I am, mother! What do you want?"

A smart middle-aged woman appeared in the doorway.

"I've never seen the likes of you, Oline. You can't even come when I call you."

"But, mother, I came as soon as I could. Besides, it's not a matter of life and death, is it?"

"Of course not! If you can only gossip away yourself, you don't mind if I sit here alone all day! Who's in there with you?"

"Why, is any one in there?"

"Oh, I heard you, plain enough! Who's in there? I want to know this minute, do you hear!"

"Well, well, it's only Marthe Moen!"

"What does she want?"

Oline began to put things in order about the cupboard, and did not answer.

"Don't you hear me, Oline! I've never seen the beat, the way you're acting. Tell me what she wants!"

"Oh, nothing! She only wants to find out if we'll let her have a pig when ours come."

"Hm, hm! Never heard the beat! You can't go promising away any more pigs, now."

She sat silent a little while, looking straight ahead with an absent gaze. Presently she had forgotten the whole thing, and asked, "Have you got visitors in there?"

Oline glanced at her, shook her head slightly, and then said more kindly, "I told you, didn't I, that Marthe Moen is here!"

"Oh, is she, really? I must have a talk with her. Ask her to come in and see me before she goes."

"Yes, I will," answered Oline, and left the room.

A short time afterward Ivar came in.

The old woman's face brightened as soon as she saw him.

"Oh, it's you, is it, Ivar?"

"Yes, grandma. The wild geese left word for you—they just now flew by."

"Sh!" She motioned with her hand toward the door. "Shut the door, Ivar, so they can't hear us."

*

They had secrets between them, those two, and it all came about in this way:

For a long time old Beret had not been outside the little room that had been set apart for her when her daughter took over the household. She was so old now that she had to remain sitting there, feeling rather cold all the while. She was still able to use her hands, but when she had once sat down she stayed in her chair because she could not rise without help. Her sight and hearing were not bad, but otherwise her faculties had fallen off; memory and judgment especially had failed. Like all old people she had grown rather caustic and curious and difficult to please: what she asked for one minute she was dissatisfied at getting the next minute.

She tried the patience particularly of Oline, her own daughter and the boy's mother, since the two women were thrown the most together. Old Beret imagined that she had a great many important subjects to talk about. As a matter of fact, there was no sense in it all, mainly forgotten things from long, long ago, when her husband was still living, things that she could call to mind only in their vaguest outlines and therefore always kept getting twisted. Now and then Oline would listen to her, but she noticed well enough that grown people did not give her the best of attention, and their rudeness often made her angry. So it happened that she came to entrust her confidences to Ivar. He never missed a word, and indeed felt flattered that his grandmother took such pains to whisper to him so as not to be overheard by the others.

There was one thing, above all, that his grandmother had repeatedly impressed upon him through the whole winter. She was determined to get outdoors. The others, however, did not dare to let her have her way. On a single occasion during the winter they had pretended to give in, and had carried her through the living-room toward the outer door; but when she reached that point she suddenly fell into a tantrum "because the room looked so mussy," and insisted on being returned to her own domain.

Thereafter—she knew quite well that they had simply humored her for once—she never said anything to the grownups about going outdoors; but with Ivar she discussed her plan all the more. She was sick with longing; she was sure that she would recover if she could only see the valley and the hills and feel the warmth of the sun. And she was to have her wish on the day the wild geese flew north again, for then it would be spring.

They had conspired that Ivar was to help her out, undetected by the others, when the time arrived; that was the reason he had been standing on the lookout for the wild geese from his little hill-top to-day and these many days past.

*

Grandmother was all in a flutter before Ivar got the door shut. Then she peered for a long while toward the window, bent down to

him, and whispered, "Were they flying nicely in a row? That would be a good sign."

He started, blushed, and hesitated a moment. She did not repeat the question, but kept her eyes inquisitively on his face. At length he said, "Yes, grandma, they were flying awfully pretty, just like a snowplow."

"Then try to coax your mother out of the way, so that we can pass through the living-room."

He walked toward the door.

"Oh, wait a minute, Ivar; open the upper drawer in the chest and you'll find a lump of brown sugar."

"But grandma, you know I ate the last piece yesterday."

"Did you, really? I ought to have something to give you. Hunt around, and see if you don't find something you want."

He stepped to the chest, opened the drawer, and fumbled about till he found a silver heart. She saw what it was, and said, "That's all right, Ivar, you may have that."

He jumped for joy; but as he glanced at his grandmother, he suddenly remembered that he had not told the truth.

"No, grandma, I'll take it some other time," he answered soberly, then laid the heart down in the drawer again, and went out. A little later he came hurrying back, picked up a chair, and left the room once more. Soon he came in a second time, and announced, "Mother is over at the pig-sty with Marthe Moen."

"Is she, really?"

"Yes, and I've set the chair near the south wall. Come on, grandma!"

He handed her the stick, placed its spiked tip carefully on the floor so that it should stand steady, put his shoulder under her free arm, and lifted. With his help she rose up. She was full of ardor, and the excitement added to her strength; it was easier work than they had expected. All went well over the low threshold to the living-room, but when they had crept across the floor their difficulties increased. She had to lean against the door-jamb while he bent down and raised one of her feet over the outer threshold — she could not manage it herself. Then she had to move a little so that he could bring the other foot over safely.

She shuddered slightly and seemed to grow smaller as she passed through the door and felt the crisp air. Yet she collected herself and tried to laugh: "What nonsense, that I shouldn't be able to walk outside; I'm just as spry as any youngster."

More and more eagerly they worked their way along the wall and soon reached the corner. Then she began to weaken. The first thing

she looked for was the chair. It stood at some little distance, between the two windows. They struggled on. When they were only a pace or so from the goal, her strength was almost gone; she dropped her stick, stretched her hand helplessly toward the back of the chair, staggered on a step farther, and just succeeded in gripping the chair as she was about to sink to the ground and carry the boy along in her fall. She toppled heavily into the seat, and Ivar helped her to take a comfortable position.

The sun shone warmly against the wall, the murmur of the brook rose and fell, birds twittered, insects hummed about them—spring was in the air.

Ivar stood watching her. She had difficulty in holding her head erect; but raising it deliberately she let her eyes slowly follow the horizon from one side to the other; yet her gaze was dull and indifferent, and her head inclined again till she saw only the earth at her feet. Disappointment and fear took hold of the boy.

"Don't you like it, grandma?"

She started and trembled as she heard his voice; and at the same moment a chill gust of wind rushed around the corner.

"Hm! Everything is spoiled. The hills are not what they used to be in olden times!"

Ivar opened his eyes wide.

"What did they look like then, grandma?"

"They were much finer. And the sun isn't warm any more, either! How they let everything go to rack and ruin! I want to go in again. I'm cold. Hu!"

Ivar's eyes filled with tears, and his voice shook, "Yes, grandma, we'll go in again. Come on!"

"Hu, it's cold! No, no, I can't! You'd better call your mother!"

The next day there were many people in grandmother's little room. She lay in her bed talking nonsense. The doctor was just gone, after leaving word that pneumonia had set in, and that it was not likely a woman so old would survive. The others remained as quiet as possible, conversing in low tones, but not weeping very much. Now and then, when grandmother in her delirium said something unusually queer, Oline rubbed her eyes with her apron. Ivar, however, stood in the corner by the cupboard, weeping bitterly. No one knew why, for children do not ordinarily take things so hard. He had been crying all of yesterday, too, and therefore they had not scolded him a great deal for his part in the plot; and they had not so much as told him that the doctor said grandmother had caught a cold the day before, and that it was in a way his fault.

The small room grew still, except for grandmother's prattle and Ivar's sobbing.

All of a sudden grandmother was silent. After a while she moaned softly and looked about. Then she began to speak in the most remarkably mild voice, and everybody realized that she had come to herself, "Is it Ivar that's crying so?"

"Yes," answered Oline; "Ivar, grandma's asking for you."

He walked to the bed, fell on his knees, and whispered, "I told a story, grandma; I pointed at the wild geese yesterday."

"Yes, but then you repeated the Lord's Prayer, didn't you, because I've told you to do that?" Then she smiled, and said quietly, "Oh, that's so, Oline, I'd almost forgotten about it; I want Ivar to have my silver heart."

These were grandmother's last words.

Alaska

By JON OLAFSSON

Translated from the Icelandic by SKULI JOHNSON

*At rest I bide beneath the shady trees
On lawn-clad shores with lofty mountains nigh;
Here finds my heart from aches and ill surcease,
With singing birds and swinging billows by.*

*Methinks I've heard ere this their sounds of peace,
Methinks that here my exile's moans may die,
Methinks that here my soul may find sweet ease,
Methinks 't is good to dwell beneath this sky.*

*Although at times it seems to me a sin
That sounds and human habitations mar
Such haunts as these that have but nature known,*

*'T is not in vain if we our wish may win
And thou wilt us, that Iceland's orphans are,
Mother, renew and make thy very own!*

Social Welfare at the SKF

By VICTOR OSCAR FREEBURG

Aktiebolaget Svenska Kullagerfabriken, that is, the Swedish Ball Bearing Company, Incorporated, familiarly known as SKF, might be said to have begun its social welfare work when it democratized the ball bearing. Previous to 1907 ball bearings could be used only in bicycles and automobiles, or similar types of machinery carefully constructed from the finest materials. But now, thanks to the invention of the "self-aligning ball bearing" by Mr. Sven Wingquist, formerly managing director of SKF, mechanical efficiency of even the crudest machinery is being multiplied by eliminating friction and wear from its bearings.

The value of this invention explains in part the rapid growth of the SKF, which already employs upward of 3,000 workmen in a single factory in Göteborg and maintains other factories in Denmark, England, Russia, France, Germany, and the United States. But the success must also be attributed in no small degree to the many hands that have worked skilfully under the inventor's direction, for, although a good commercial commodity will almost sell itself, it will not produce itself by spontaneous growth.

As an employer of skilled labor, this great engineer is aware that he owes his employees something more than their salaries, and he makes them feel that they owe him something more than their services. One finds, therefore, at Göteborg a loyalty downward, as well as a loyalty upward, or rather, let us say, a mutual sympathy and respect.

The general welfare work at the Swedish Ball Bearing Factory may be grouped broadly under the five heads, financial service, service as middleman, economizing living, health benefit, and education. Of these the first two departments are looked after by a special organization, administered out of the funds of the factory, to which the workmen may come voluntarily for service. This organization is called *Intressekontoret*, which we may translate freely as the Service Bureau.

Who of us would not be glad to find an attorney or business manager to take care of our regular outlays, such as taxes, rents, and premiums on insurance, without disturbing us in any way, not even sending a bill for his services? That is exactly what the Service Bureau does for the workmen. All a man needs to do is to send to the Bureau in advance an itemized list of such regular outlays. This is then apportioned in such a way that deductions can be made from the weekly wage, except for those pay days that precede holidays, and the workman has no further worry over the matters; nor does he have to pay a commission for the accounts thus handled.



A COURT SURROUNDED BY SKF DWELLINGS

But suppose he becomes short of money, through sudden special demands, extravagance, or any cause whatsoever; he may then come to the Bureau and make a loan, without interest, and without pledge other than his future salary. The Bureau, of course, investigates the case in order not to loan money except where there is a real need. Repayment

is made in regular installments by deducting 10 per cent of the loan from the weekly wages, with the further proviso that an equal amount must be deposited weekly in a savings fund to the borrower's credit. He is thus, as it were, forced to provide against the next similar emergency. Savings may, of course, be held out and deposited to the credit of any workman who so desires, the depositors receiving the same interest from the Bureau as they would receive from the commercial banks.

A further financial service to the workingman is the Bureau's guaranteeing of credit at the local stores and shops. That is, the workingman may go to certain dealers in clothing, furniture, etc., and by proving that he belongs to the SKF forces may buy on credit, charging the account to the Service Bureau, which pays the bill and makes the proper deduction from his wages. Here again is a simplification in the handling of money, and the purchaser derives the further benefit of getting his goods at a discount of from 5 to 8 per cent.

But the philanthropic initiative of Mr. Wingquist has found even greater means of saving money for the workers, for the Service Bureau acts as middleman in purchasing large quantities of such com-



A PLEASANT ROOM IN A WORKMAN'S HOUSE

modities as butter, cheese, herring, mackerel, potatoes, wood, etc., and selling them to the employees at minimum prices. In the handling of potatoes, especially, the Bureau did heroic work during the critical period of the World War when, owing to the great shortage of food, they were not obtainable on the market. It is perhaps generally known that the actions of some firms and private individuals placed Sweden under the suspicion of the Allies, who diverted the cargoes consigned to her ports, lest the goods fall into the hands of Germany. The consequent rationing of food entailed great hardship for the Swedish people. Potatoes, among other things, rose to high prices and could be obtained only in the smallest quantities.



DISSEMBARKING FROM THE SPECIAL TRAIN THAT BRINGS THE SKF EMPLOYEES TO THEIR WORK
IN THE MORNING

It then occurred to Mr. Wingquist that there must be hundreds of small farmers throughout the land who might have stored in their cellars an excess of a few bushels, which they had not disposed of, because they lived too far away from the nearest railway station or market. Acting on this inspiration, he dispatched a number of men with carts to seek out such supplies, with the result that, during a period of three months, 300,000 kilograms of potatoes were gathered and distributed

to the SKF workers. The potatoes thus provided were sold at the lowest prices permitted by the government, and the costs of the purchasing organization were borne entirely by the factory.

That the factory workers keep house with their own families is implied in the above figures. In fact it has been estimated that the total number of employees and their dependents who look to SKF for their maintenance was in 1918 about 9,000. The problem of housing at least a part of so large a colony was very early taken into consideration by the management and personnel of the factory, and at present there are several real estate or housing associations either affiliated with, or subsidiary to, the main factory. Thus a considerable portion of the workers are able to dwell in model homes in the immediate vicinity of their place of occupation. The surroundings are full of natural beauty, healthful and idyllic. The sky contains no fleck of smoke, for the factory is run entirely by electrical power. The little village of ball bearing makers, isolated as it is from the rest of Göteborg, has already developed a fine community feeling and sense of social solidarity.

If at times the cook in one of these little homes wants a rest, or if there are bachelors in the factory who do not keep house, meals may be had at cost in the restaurant maintained by the SKF. This branch of the service has grown so rapidly during the few years of its operation that now meals are served in two sittings with a total accommodation for twenty-five hundred persons per meal.

Further attention to the personal needs of the workingmen is offered by the free medical service in all cases of sudden illness or of injuries incurred while at work. Injuries, however, are rare, as there is no particular danger connected with the operation of the SKF machinery, and the conditions of labor are so favorable that illness is exceptional. For the purpose of financial assistance in case of serious illness or death a special association, called the Sickness and Burial Fund, has been created by the workers, and, with the help of certain contributions from the factory, is maintained by them.

But the welfare work of Svenska Kullagerfabriken does not limit itself to the physical needs of the persons employed. A man is, after all, a thinking machine, and as such his mind must be taken care of. Free education is given the younger men of the labor and clerical forces. They may go to the factory schoolroom after working hours and receive instruction in such subjects as mathematics and book-keeping, as well as in the English, French, German and Russian languages. The linguistic training is especially valuable, as it often opens up for the student an opportunity of serving the SKF in foreign lands.

Thus a great factory in Sweden has established a paternal relation, or, may we not say, a fraternal relation with its laborers. Industrial civilization having marched the laborer out of his home and into the

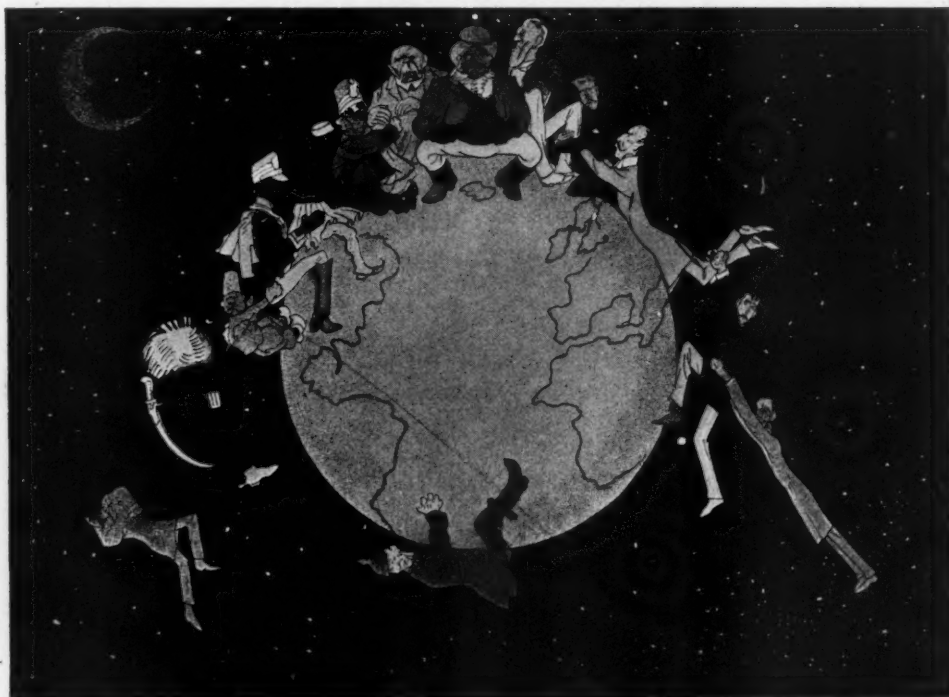
factory, the amenities of life have overtaken it by bringing the comforts and affections of home to the very spot where the laborer toils.

And yet our story has not all been told, for the welfare work at the SKF has not ceased to develop. New occasions for service are met as they arise. Only recently Mr. Wingquist made a personal donation of 200,000 kronor, the income from which is to be expended in providing games, outings, entertainments, and lectures for the workers, or in sending needy cases on vacation.

When one contemplates the vast amount of thought, energy, and expense that goes into such a program of welfare work one is tempted to ask whether it really pays. Something of an answer may be found in the recent report that during the last five years the efficiency of skilled laborers in Sweden has been increased by twenty-four percent. Such an increase means a corresponding increase in income and in the sense of power and satisfaction to the workmen. There can be no doubt that the efforts of employers such as we have just described are largely responsible for this improvement in Swedish industry.

The League of Nations

As the Danish Cartoonist Sees it



From Svikmøllen

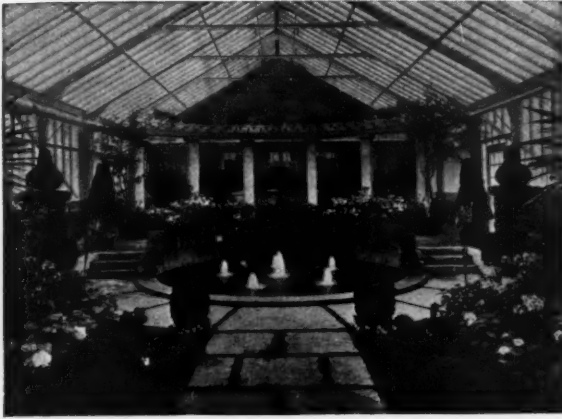
Sweden's First Department Store

A single glance within the doors of the magnificent department store of the Northern Company, Incorporated, in Stockholm, would be enough to convince even the casual visitor that trade may dwell together with refinement and art. For this establishment, though it handles a larger variety of high quality goods than the great stores in our country, is able to arrange its display with finer taste and surer touch. The building itself, whether viewed from within or without, looks more like a palace than a store; yet beneath its roof 2,500 salespeople are employed, a large retail and mail order business is conducted, and extensive exports are made to foreign lands.

Such results have been achieved because of the Swede's willingness to learn from others and his capacity for improving on what he has learned. Consul General Joseph Sachs, the managing director of the company, and Mr. Ferdinand Boberg, one of Sweden's greatest architects, who designed the store, traveled far and made careful studies before the final drafts of their plans were made, visiting the United States in 1912. Hence, all that is excellent in such stores as Marshall Field's of Chicago, and Wanamaker's of Philadelphia and New York has gone into the Northern Company, and in addition many good features have been incorporated which were suggested only



NORDISKA KOMPANIET, A DEPARTMENT STORE THAT LOOKS LIKE A CASTLE



THE CONSERVATORY AT HAGA NEAR STOCKHOLM WHICH SUPPLIES NORDISKA KOMPANIET WITH FRESH FLOWERS

the same town the company manufactures its own electric fixtures, which are becoming famous in northern Europe, and just outside of Stockholm are the nursery, truck gardens, and special factories where choice delicacies are produced for the table.

Besides controlling the quality of goods at their source, the company makes special efforts to rise above "standardization" of products wherever design and workmanship is involved, and takes pride in executing the orders of the most individual and discriminating customer. The directors have expressed their desire that the Northern Company shall leave its stamp of culture upon the community, and it is a gratifying thing in this age of machinery and materialism to know that already this influence is felt even in the remote corners of Sweden, that many a miner above the Arctic Circle and many a fisherman on the islands of the Baltic cherishes in his home some object of beauty purchased in the great department store of Stockholm.

vaguely, if at all, by what these gentlemen saw abroad.

High quality of goods, for example, is assured the Northern Company because it produces or controls the production of many of its wares. It maintains a large furniture factory at Nyköping, where anything from the plainest kitchen table to the finest specimen of the cabinetmaker's art is produced. In



A BREATH OF AIR AT NOON. EMPLOYEES OF NORDISKA KOMPANIET ON THE ROOF TERRACE OF THE STORE

Stockholm 15 februari 1928

DAGENS NYHETER.

VAD TIO STUDENTER FRÅN U.S.A. TÄNKA OCH TYCKA OM SVERIGE

Amerikastiftelsens stipendiater uttala sig för Dagens Nyheter



Stockholm 15 februari 1928

What Our Students Think of Sweden

By WILLIAM RICHARDS

That the Stockholm *Dagens Nyheter* should devote a full page and a half to the impressions of Sweden of the American "Exchange Fellows," is proof of the popularity of the institution of exchanging students. The editorial tact exhibited in the presentation of the very frank, though friendly, views of the young Americans, render this feature article a document of high cultural value. You can see that our students have really learned to appreciate and understand the hospitality to which they give unanimous testimony—a hospitality intellectual as well as social, and one which seems to have encouraged these newcomers to express to the editor the unfavorable as well as the favorable impressions they have received.

The Americans, being themselves men of energy, are all struck by the great contrast of intensely living America and more easy-going Sweden, but they are most enthusiastic admirers of the Swedes for their appreciation of the beautiful in life, an appreciation derived through the use of leisure time in which the cogs of daily life do not interfere with the—usually more timid—natural artistic impulses. Mr. Rowland V. Hagen, who is studying chemistry and physics at the Nobel Institute, while emphasizing this difference between America and Sweden, yet warns the Swedes not to judge of America and American art and literature on pure hearsay or from imperfect examples. Work is the art of America. At any rate, you would gather so from the comparisons drawn by these various students, who feel that the Swedish workman is lacking in a love of his work. It must be remembered that all such views are purely comparative; and still, these men come into the steel plants and the power plants and can at least see that the average Swedish workman is not so busy as the American. Mr. Henry M.

Meloney, who is studying the forests of Norrland, observes that there are many instances in which American methods would save half the time of the workmen—but, he asks, what would happen to the workmen in the other half! There is an apparent lack of that good footing on which the employers and employees should stand if the work is to be done efficiently. According to an interview with Mr. Clarence N. Ostergren, studying hydro-electrical engineering at the Institute of Technology in Stockholm, and Mr. Robert Sessions, who has been investigating the same subject from a more practical angle, these men have been wondering at the undemocratic behavior of even the clerks, who feel themselves superior to the ordinary workmen. That this occurs less frequently among us may be due to the fact that the American workman, having greater incentive for improving his position through study and intense application to his vocation, may readily become the employer some day of the young man at the desk.

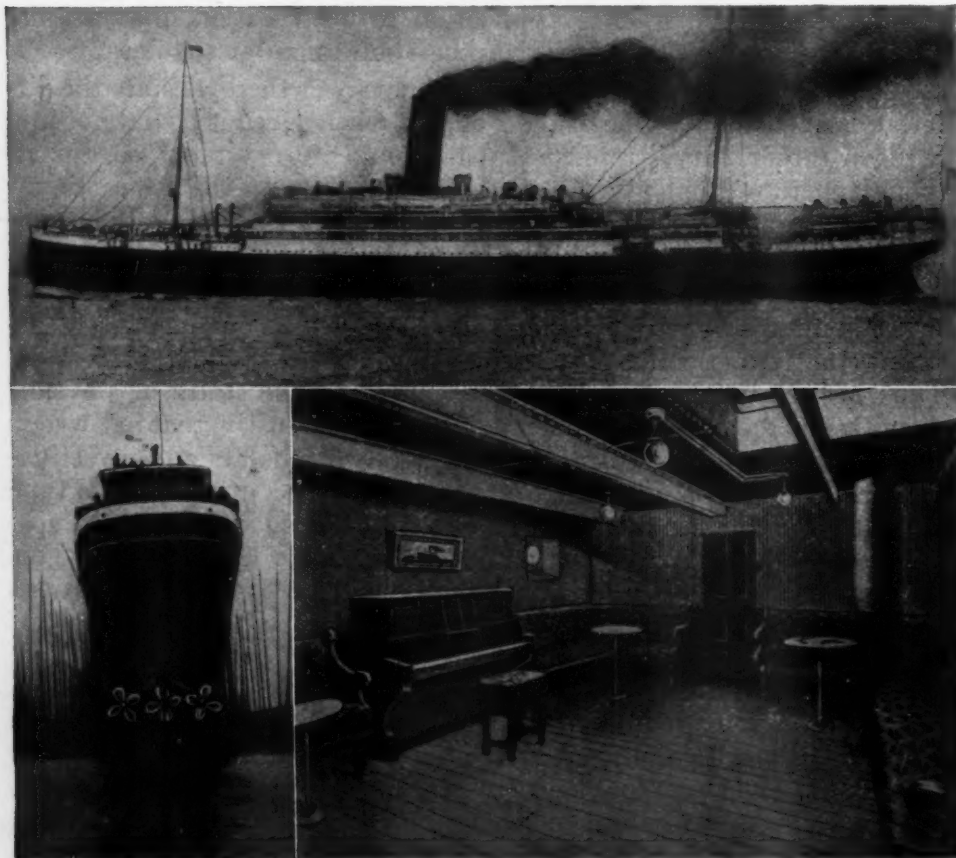
The Americans seem to be quite at home over there, despite the differences in customs. One of the Fellows, when asked if he did not find Sweden rather "dry," replied that he found it very much so, for although there were plenty of "snaps" in the land, all that he cared for was water, water, water, and, oh, how he did suffer at first with his amphibious American longing for some real pure and unadulterated water!

It is interesting to note the comparisons which our men make between the American and Swedish systems of higher education. Thus Mr. Ralph M. Hixon, who is pursuing the study of physical chemistry at the Nobel Institute, points out, very justly, that in Sweden higher education aims at forming independent scholars and investigators, while in America the chief aim is to turn out a good average type of man. The former system he sees to be to the advantage of the specially gifted and the latter to that of the average or less talented. It is only natural that the American students find the Swedish institutions less rigid than the American, but it should be remembered that most of these men were undergraduates at our universities or colleges and that they would, doubtless, experience the very same inducements to independent work on proceeding to our graduate schools. Mr. William Moir finds that life and work at the School of Forestry at Stockholm is about on a level with that he enjoyed while studying forestry at Yale, as far as independence and comradeship with other students and with the faculty are concerned. A valuable contribution toward an understanding of that very American institution, the college, is made by Mr. Chester C. Stewart, who is taking up higher chemistry at the Nobel Institute. He gives a searching description of the college as a broadening and democratic force in forming the American character and

contrasts it with the purely academic Swedish institutions. Here again, however, it is the institutions corresponding to the American graduate schools, or universities proper, of which he is writing.

The editor was, of course, interested in bringing such views to the front as seemed particularly apropos in Sweden, and if there thus enters a certain element of criticism on the part of our students, it is certainly not because they are not learning to admire and love Scandinavia.

Current Illustrations



BY THE COURTESY OF "VECKO-JOURNALEN" WE ARE ENABLED TO GIVE SOME VIEWS OF THE NEW SWEDISH-AMERICAN LINER, THE "DROTTNINGHOLM," WHICH IS TO ALTERNATE WITH THE "STOCKHOLM" IN THE SERVICE BETWEEN GÖTEBORG AND NEW YORK. THE UPPER PICTURE SHOWS THE STEAMER AT FULL LENGTH. THE HUGE SHAMROCKS IN THE STERN TO THE LEFT ARE NOT A TRIBUTE TO ST. PATRICK, BUT THE MIGHTY PROPELLORS OF THE "DROTTNINGHOLM." THE COMFORTABLE MUSIC-ROOM TO THE RIGHT IS THAT OF THE THIRD CLASS

Our Mother Tongue

By EDVARD LEMBCKE

Translated from the Danish by JANE CAMPBELL

*Our mother tongue it is so sweet and doth so softly ring,
To what shall I compare it, when in its praise I sing?
A beauteous high born maiden, a youthful royal bride,
Who looks so young, so charming that she draws us to her side.*

*Inspired by her are all the good and noble words we breathe,
When secret prayers of love we make, or victory's laurels wreathe,
Doth sorrow crush the heart, or else doth happiness it bless,
She gives us fitting words that can our grief or joy express.*

*And if to east or west we roam, to some far distant shore,
To seek the wisdom of the past, or foreign countries' lore,
She beckons us, she calls us, and joyfully we all—
So young, so charming does she look—then follow at her call.*

*And then when the invaders, with thought to work us ill,
Within her very castle wall bade her a serf's place fill,
Just as they thought with iron bands she was securely bound,
Her hearty laughter burst her chains and cast them on the ground.*

*And then the gift of mighty words she gave to every bard,
Who ever pressed close to her side, a strong and faithful guard;
Each song the people hear with joy, and every song they sing,
In the coat of mail that shields her breast becomes an added ring.*

*Each bold and forceful jest that tempts the lips in smiles to part,
Within her quiver it becomes a sharp and winged dart,
And every earnest word that e'er from heart to heart speaks out,
A stone becomes in the mighty wall that circles her about.*

*But swiftly roll the years away, on earth things disappear,
Our names, they are forgotten as the snows that fell last year,
And fate bids races vanish, unnoted and unsung,
But she still holds us, for she looks so charming and so young.*

Editorial

ACROSS THE KONGE AA When King Christian rides on a white horse over the Konge Aa to celebrate, according to an old prophecy, the reunion of Slesvig with Denmark, he will come into the heritage that all the strongest rulers of Denmark have striven for through centuries. There will no longer be any dividing line between North and South Jutland; the people will be simply Danes, citizens of one country. The new boundary, drawn with the consent of the people, has every prospect of being stable. The international guarantee given it by the peace treaty removes that shadow of the mailed fist under which Denmark herself has been living ever since the rise of Prussia, and there is no reason why the reunited nation should not have a fair and happy future before it. It is true, there are forty thousand Germans living within the new Danish borders, but the authorities are so determined not to return evil for evil, and the Danish Slesvigers themselves have learned so well their lesson of patience and forbearance, that there is no reason to fear serious trouble.

This homogeneity has not been achieved without sacrifice. "Thyra's Wall," where Danes and Germans have contended for ten centuries, and Slesvig, the city of old Danish memories, were excluded even from the voting era. Flensburg, home of the staunchest fighters for the Danish cause, was allowed to vote itself away from the mother country. Many Danes hoped till the last moment that the Flensborgers would heed the words of the poster spread broadcast over the city: "*I tusind Aar var du Danmarks By; du Barn af Danmark, bliv Dansk paany*," but the German element was too strong. Considering that Flensburg since the conquest has grown into a large industrial city peopled by German laborers, and that it has been the seat of German officialdom and German schools, the Danish vote was really large. It would have been easy to have included the city in the first zone and so have swung it into line by means of the northern majorities; but the Danish Government realized that Flensburg dragged in against the will of the majority would have been a constant source of danger. It would have opened the flood gates for the Schleswig-Holstein separatist agitation which would have played, ultimately, into the hands of Germany.

NOT DEAD YET Last year a writer in the New York Evening Post declared that the Schleswig-Holstein question was as dead as a door nail. It has come to life again with the proclamation of an independent Schleswig-Holstein state. This act, which was probably a campaign trick to win the second zone, has confused the issue of the plebiscite in the minds of some Americans. Several articles have appeared attempting to prove that the "little twin countries"

desire only independence and union, that they have been ground between Denmark and Germany as between the upper and nether millstone, and that the plebiscite under Allied supervision was a final act of tyranny.

The fact is that there has never of old been any love lost between Danish Slesvig and German Holstein. They were not forcibly separated, but arbitrarily joined in a personal union, which proved most disastrous for Slesvig. When Slesvig became partly Germanized in the feudal era, Danish kings tried to stem the flood from the south, and later, in the nineteenth century, these efforts took the form of forcing the Danish language on the people in the districts where it had almost or quite died out. But after all the Danes were simply trying to save their own, and this can not be compared to imposing the language of the victors on a conquered population, as the Germans did after 1864. As for the method of execution, it may suffice to say that in the worst time of Danish "tyranny" not a single German was expelled from Slesvig, whereas thousands and thousands of Danes were expatriated later by the Germans.

Mild as it was, this "persecution" furnished the pretext for the Schleswig-Holstein rebellion of 1848, which was a German not a Danish movement. The Danes in North Slesvig remained faithful to Denmark. To them *Schleswig-Holstein meerumschlungen* — now used again as a campaign song — is anathema just as much as *Deutschland über alles*. But Schleswig-Holstein needs the Danes; for without the rich agricultural districts in North Slesvig the new state will cut but a sorry figure. Hence the old issue is lifting its head again. Americans should not take it for more than it is worth.

ENTERING THE LEAGUE WITHOUT US Denmark, Norway, and Sweden have accepted the invitation to become original members of the League of Nations. The act was conspicuously lacking in enthusiasm. Their parliaments, after being called in extra session, adjourning to await the action of our Senate, and coming together again, finally, at the last possible moment before the expiration of the time on March 10, as stipulated in the invitation, decided to accept, all three nations acting simultaneously. The opposition was scattered among all parties, but came chiefly from the extreme left and the extreme right, the former objecting because the League would not abolish war altogether, the latter because it would too much limit national sovereignty. There was much uncertainty about the military obligations the members might be forced to shoulder, and many pessimists could find no better argument for entering the League than "we shall be worse off outside than inside."

With what a different spirit would they have entered if we had led the way! The people of Scandinavia have not forgotten that we entered the war without selfish ends to serve and have asked neither a foot of land nor a penny of money for ourselves. The presence of the United States in the League of Nations would to them have meant a guarantee that it should not be made a mere instrument for executing the claims of the victors in the late war. As now constituted they are afraid it will be only another coalition of powers, leading inevitably to the formation of an opposition group headed by Germany and drawing on the resources of Russia. Between two such groups they are afraid the small nations will be crushed as between stone walls. Branting last summer went so far as to say, in his interview for the *REVIEW*, that "a League of Nations without the United States would be no League of Nations."

Nevertheless Branting's party and the Liberals in all three countries have thrown the weight of their votes for the League. As many of them expressed it, although Wilson's idea has been repudiated by his own country, it is yet the greatest step that has ever been taken toward the realization of universal peace, and they still hope that the United States may come in though at the eleventh hour.

NEW MARRIAGE LAWS A joint commission of representatives from the three Scandinavian countries has been at work for ten years framing a set of marriage laws more in accordance with modern ideas of right than the antiquated codes still existing on paper. The work of the commission has now been completed, and marriage codes based upon it are before the parliaments both in Sweden and Denmark.

The first part of the commission's report, which was ready years ago and has already been enacted into law in Norway and Sweden, dealt with the rules governing the contraction and dissolution of marriage. Its most important innovation is the declaration that the State does not want to force two people to live together against their will. In practice this will mean that it will no longer be necessary to drag family scandals into the courts or to trump up accusations of misconduct in order to secure a divorce; a simple mutual declaration of the desire to separate will be enough.

The second part deals with the various intricate problems relating to children and property. Through the mass of detail runs a general principle of equality. The husband shall no longer have the guardianship of the wife. Both are to be considered as individuals, with equal rights in their children, each retaining, so far as possible, freedom of action and control of his or her own property whether acquired before or after marriage. To safeguard the common interests of the family

there is a new institution known as "marriage right," by which each is given a certain interest in the property of the other. Where, for instance, the family home is owned by either husband or wife, it can not be sold without the consent of the other. The wife is no longer regarded merely as a person being "supported." She too has the duty of providing for the family, though generally her administration of the household will be considered as her contribution to the joint economy.

WHY NOT AN ENDOWED CHAIR? There is urgent need of a chair in Scandinavian universities of the West have for many years had full professorships in Scandinavian; Minnesota has even a department. In the East, on the other hand, Scandinavian has generally been a mere adjunct to the Germanic departments. Yet the East offers in some respects greater facilities. The libraries here are more complete; the connection with Scandinavia is closer, books are more readily accessible, visitors from abroad more frequent, and foreign travel is less difficult and expensive. It is true, the solid constituency of Scandinavian blood is not so large here as in the West and not so self-conscious, but there is in the East a keen and growing intellectual interest in Northern literature and institutions among persons of purely American antecedents.

The psychological moment for establishing a professorship in Scandinavian languages and literature at Harvard, Yale, or Columbia is undoubtedly here now, but the shortage of teachers is more than ever apt to draw men away from the pioneer work of Scandinavian to the beaten tracks of better known fields. An endowed chair would prevent this defection and give dignity and stability. Endowed professorships are generally recognized as making for high standards of scholarship. They have the advantage of giving opportunity for writing and research for which the overburdened American college professor generally finds too little time.

AN AMERICAN MEMORIAL IN DENMARK The REVIEW invites discussion in the American and Danish press of the idea of the erection in Copenhagen of an American memorial commemorating the concept of self-determination as applied to Slesvig. Whereas Jutland has its Danish-American Park, where the Stars and Stripes are unfurled with fitting ceremonies on the Fourth of July, the capital city of Denmark contains no distinctive memorial of America's contribution to Danish ideals such as that, for example, embodied for Great Britain in the beautiful English church which occupies a commanding position near the harbor. Is the time ripe for a representation in art of the American—or shall we call it Wilsonian?—principle of self-determination, and if so, how shall it be carried out?

Current Events

Sweden

¶ Sweden's entrance into the League of Nations was the subject of a hot debate. Immediately after his return from the meeting of Scandinavian ministers in Christiania, the foreign minister, on February 18, laid before the Riksdag the Government proposition that the King be authorized to accept on behalf of Sweden the invitation to become an original member of the League of Nations. The foreign minister spoke of the serious weaknesses in the organization of the League, but laid stress on the possibilities of a gradual improvement. A special committee was then formed in the Riksdag of representatives from all parties to report on the matter. A majority of this committee favored the acceptance of the Government proposition, although some members were for a flat refusal and others for a shorter or longer delay, some going so far as to say that Sweden ought to await the action of the United States. ¶ The motion to accept came to a vote in the second chamber on March 3 and was passed with 152 against 67 votes. On the following day it passed the first chamber with 86 against 47 votes. The support came from the two Government parties, the Liberals and the Socialists, while the opposition was from the Conservatives and the Left Socialists. ¶ Two days later Premier Edén handed in his resignation. This had been generally expected. He had carried the responsibilities of government since October, 1917, together with seven representatives of the Liberal and four of the Socialist party, and by co-operation of the two parties had been able to control a majority in both houses, which was especially large after the Government's own suffrage bill had gone through. ¶ From the beginning of the present Riksdag, however, the Socialists stood ready to take over the responsibility of government alone, and an occasion for a break came with the introduction of a very far-reaching socialistic proposal for a new basis of communal taxation, which would carry with it a considerable increase in the burdens borne by the farmers. Minister of Finance Thorsson sponsored the proposal, but the Liberal members of the cabinet were opposed to laying it before the Riksdag. The question has been acute for some time, but a crisis was postponed until a decision had been taken on Sweden's entrance into the League of Nations, so that this should be the last act of the old Government. ¶ King Gustaf first invited Premier Edén to form a purely Liberal cabinet, but as the majority of his party did not favor such action, the premier at once refused. The task was then entrusted to the old Socialist chief, Hjalmar Branting, and the list of names of Sweden's first Socialist cabinet was ready on March 10. Comment on the new Government is given elsewhere in the REVIEW.

Denmark

¶ The vote in the second zone in Slesvig was a disappointment to those who hoped that the few weeks of Danish propaganda before March 14 would have resulted in substantial gains. The vote in the whole zone was 13,025 for Denmark against 48,148 for Germany; in the city of Flensburg, 8,947 for Denmark and 26,911 for Germany. Even if allowance is made for the very large German non-resident vote, the fact remains that the second zone is German in about the same proportion as the first is Danish, that is 75 per cent. ¶ The effect in Denmark was to precipitate an open fight between those who want Flensburg back on grounds of historic justice and those who want to abide by the decision of the majority. The pluck and endurance of the large Danish minority in the southern outpost of Scandinavia have naturally won more friends than ever for their cause, and have made it seem more than ever intolerable that they should be handed back to Germany, where, as one German sheet expressed it, "the fact that they are Danish will be written in blood on their backs."

¶ When the returns of the election were received in Copenhagen, a mob marched to the residence of the premier to the tune of "Down with Zahle, down with Zahle!" The following night a crowd carried Ernst Christiansen, editor of *Flensburg Avis*, to Amalienborg palace, where, wrapped in the Dannebrog and held up on the shoulders of two stalwart young men, he pleaded the cause of his city before King Christian. The King spoke a few conciliatory words and ended by saying that the cause was in hands which could be trusted. He referred, of course, to the International Commission. This Commission has the power to draw the boundary line on the basis of the plebiscite but with due regard to economic and geographical considerations. The contention now of the Flensburg faction is that the city should be internationalized for fifteen years, and at the end of that period another vote should be taken. ¶ So far as can be gleaned from the cables of turbulent events that have come from Denmark's usually quiet capital, the King must have made up his mind that the Zahle cabinet no longer represented the popular feeling, and demanded its resignation. He entrusted the task of forming a new Government to Advocate of the High Court Otto Liebe, but this brought on the threat of a general strike, which forced the new cabinet to resign. A compromise was then agreed upon, and a business cabinet formed consisting of the following members: F. C. G. Schroeder, minister of justice; Henrik Vedel, minister of home affairs; H. P. Prior, minister of commerce; Frederik de Jonquières, minister of church and schools; Jens Jensen, minister of labor; I. A. Hansen, minister of public works; Christian Sonne, minister of agriculture; Oscar Scavenius, minister of foreign affairs; H. P. Hanssen, minister for South Jutland.

Norway

¶ Norway's entrance into the League of Nations was considered by a special Constitutional Committee, which last September reported favorably, provided neither the United States nor any other great power remained outside. In a report of January 31, however, the Committee recommended that, inasmuch as the League was now an accomplished fact, the attitude of other powers should not influence Norway to remain outside. In the debate in the Storting the opposition was led by Hambro (Conservative); the defense, by Castberg (Labor Democrat). Mr. Hambro argued that the United States Senate, the only disinterested body that had considered the subject, probably had excellent reasons for rejecting the League. President Castberg assured the members of the Storting, from his personal observations while in this country, that the Senate was not in harmony with the will of the American people, which favored the League. The final vote was 100 for and 20 against, all but 4 of the opposition being Socialists. ¶ During the discussion in the Storting of the military budget a motion to discontinue all military training was brought before the house, but received only the 16 Socialist votes. The minister of defenses argued that the League of Nations had not yet developed to the point where it was possible to abolish all military preparedness, and pointed to the example of the United States, England, and France, all of which were increasing rather than reducing their military forces.

¶ The Soviet Government has sent an official protest against the awarding of Spitzbergen to Norway, claiming that no such award can be effective without the consent of Russia. This consent was given last July by the "Russian Political Commission," in Paris, which, of course, did not represent the Soviet Government. It is difficult to say what the outcome will be, as the Norwegians are by no means disposed to incur the enmity of a neighbor who is at present weak, but will undoubtedly grow strong again. ¶ Another source of possible difficulties with Norway's eastern neighbor or neighbors is the question of the boundary line toward what was formerly Russian but is now Finnish territory near the Arctic Ocean. The line follows in the main the course of the Pasvik River, but in one place it makes a bend westward whereby the Norwegians are shut out from both banks, while farther north it makes a deeper bend to the east, giving Norway a valuable harbor. It is possible that an amicable exchange can be affected, as the Norwegian industries need free access to the Pasvik River both for water power and for fishing and lumbering, while Finland is in greater need of an icefree harbor. The inhabitants have asked to be united with Norway. Among them are a few thousand "Skoltelapper," Lapps professing the Greek Catholic religion and living near the picturesque old Greek cloister, Boris Gleb.

Books

DANMARK OG DET DANSKE FOLK. Ved Evald Christensen. Omaha: Axel H. Andersen, Inc. 1920. 472 pages. Illustrated. Price \$3.85.

This book has been written by a group of leading men within the Danish folk high school movement under the editorship of Rev. Evald Christensen, of Viborg, South Dakota. Its purpose is to give Danes in the United States a clear and true picture of the land of their birth as it is to-day. It is often difficult for those who have been away from their old home for years to realize that it is not the same now as it was when they left; great changes have taken place in Denmark in recent years, and many of them are described in this volume.

To read *Danmark og det danske Folk* is like taking a trip through the country from end to end with some one who knows and loves every place he points out, and who has a store of interesting anecdotes to tell of men and women who lived there in bygone days. The story is well told, and the pictures of persons and places are always placed where the eye will naturally fall on them while reading the text relating to them. The volume contains a great many statistical facts, but they are so cleverly sandwiched in between snatches of poetry and local folk lore that the reader forgets to skip them.

Before you begin the descriptive trip through Denmark a series of introductory chapters, filling about one third of the book, prepare you for it by giving you an understanding of the people you are to visit and the conditions under which they live. There are chapters on the government, both national and local, on industry and trade, on agriculture, the co-operative movement, and the fisheries. These are followed by chapters on the Church and the schools, with special attention to the folk high schools.

The author of the chapter on "The People" analyzes the difference in the character of the slow and serious Jutlanders, the light-hearted inhabitants of Fyn, and the steady, good-humored Sjaellanders — a difference which is usually attributed to natural environment, but which this author is inclined to trace to early migrations of distinct groups from different parts of Europe. Another fascinating chapter tells the geological story of how Denmark came into existence, how the islands rose slowly from the bottom of the sea, and how in a later period soil from Norway was carried down on a mighty glacier and deposited to form the fertile fields of the Denmark we know.

V. C. E.

EN PRÄRIEUNGES FUNDERINGER. Af Anna Olsson. 140 sidor. Pris inbunden 4 kronor 75 öre. Stockholm: Albert Bonnier.

This little book is a delight. Though not without its predecessors — the last having received much notice in England — it captivates especially by its uniqueness. It pictures pioneer life in a Swedish settlement on the Kansas prairies, where the author's father was for several years a Lutheran minister. Her observations and reflections are those of a little child transplanted from the old home in Sweden to the strange soil of America. The book is based on the entries in a real diary and is therefore not to be looked at as made up, but as written by the child itself after reaching maturer years. There is a peculiar charm about the quaint observations of this somewhat precocious little girl; the pathos of her childish soul, which is never stilted as in grown people, is mingled with a humor that makes the reader wish he could have known the prairie youngster in her diary-writing days.

The book was published in this country a few years ago and was well received. It is pleasant to see that it has also found a publisher in Sweden, where it will no doubt win as appreciative a circle of readers.

O. A. L.

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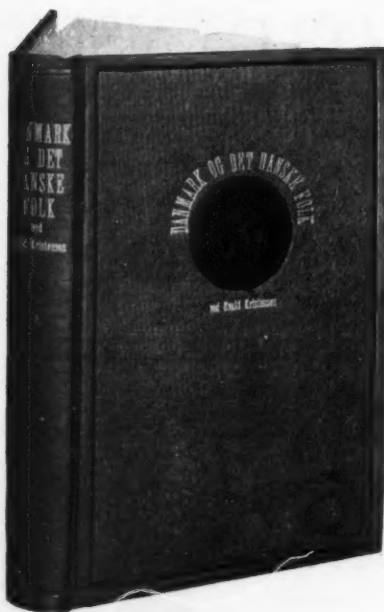
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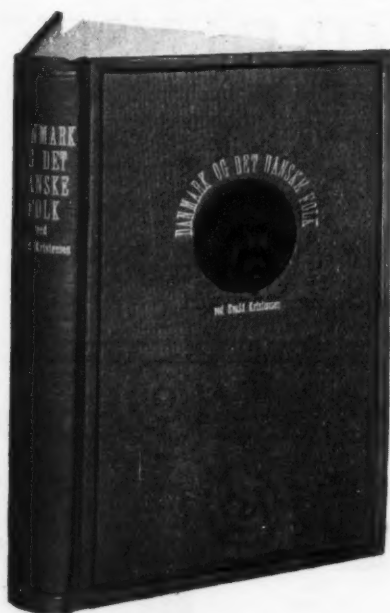
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WASHINGTON NOTES

News and Comment on Export and Trade Conditions Between America and the Scandinavian Countries
WIRELESS STATION AT STAVANGER OPERATING

Marking a very appreciable increase for direct communication between the United States and the Scandinavian countries, the wireless station at Stavanger has been placed in active operation. Messages for Denmark and Sweden are handled through the Stavanger station and then relayed overland. The previous rate on cablegrams is bettered somewhat by the rate of 24 cents per word which the Stavanger station operates on. The connection with the United States is through the Navy Department's two stations at New Brunswick and Annapolis. The stations at Sayville and Tuckerton can also be used for communication with Stavanger.

SALES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AT CHRISTIANIA

December sales of foreign exchange at Christiania stock exchange amounted to more than 84,046,000 kroner. This amount was an increase over the sales of the preceding month of 12,000,000 kroner. Of these sales over 15,000,000 kroner were for British exchange; over 10,000,000 for American exchange, and the next largest was for Swedish exchange which amounted to over 3,000,000 kroner.

SWEDISH FEE FROM COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

In view of difficulties that have arisen in some cases because of lack of familiarity with Swedish law, the Department of Commerce has issued a statement again calling attention to the Swedish law which requires commercial travelers to have

licenses. The license is good for 30 days, and may be had for a fee of 100 kronor. It may be renewed every 15 days after the expiration of the original period for a fee of 50 kronor. This license must be presented to the chief of police of the jurisdiction of the province in which business is contemplated before business is transacted.

BENNETT'S GETS NEW YORK OFFICE

The well known Norwegian tourist firm, Bennett's Travel Bureau, has established offices at 506 Fifth Avenue, New York, and is preparing for the extensive travel to the Scandinavian countries that is likely to take place this summer. The firm has also offices at San Francisco, Chicago, and Boston. The managing director of the American office is Dr. H. H. Dunning, who was manager of transportation for the National War Work Council and the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A. during the war.

A SWEDISH HOUSE IN LONDON

Sweden has followed the example of Norway in securing a national building in London. The Swedish Chamber of Commerce in that city has been working on the project for a long time, and it is likely now to be realized very soon. Mr. Herbert Metcalfe, the Swedish shipowner, has guaranteed funds sufficient to begin operations, and the Chamber does not anticipate any difficulty in raising among its members the capital required to complete the work. Plans have already been drawn for the building, which is to be located at Trinity Square on a site leased for 99 years, and it is expected that the dedication may take place in 1921.

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DANISH BUTTER TRADE TO ENGLAND RESUMED

A Danish farmers' delegation has visited England to make arrangements for the export of butter. The United Kingdom, according to a *Times* correspondent, agreed to take up to the end of March 120,000 casks of butter and to pay for it at the rate of 6.40 kroner per kilogram. This arrangement practically disposed of all the Danish butter over and above that required for local and Scandinavian needs up to April, by which time it was hoped that the sale of butter to the United Kingdom would be unrestricted. The price was not quite what the Danish farmers expected, but a desire to remain good friends with their best pre-war customer prevailed. The price of exported agricultural products naturally depends on the cost of imported coal and feeding-stuffs.

FINLAND, TOO, SENDS BUTTER

After an interval of nearly four years the export trade of Finnish butter to England has been resumed, and the first consignment of about 1400 barrels of one hundredweight each left Hangö in February. The butter trade is now almost entirely concentrated in a co-operative society, the Vallo, which has been granted permission by the government to export 80 per cent of its total sale. Owing partly to an exceptionally good crop of cereals and fodder last summer and partly to the fact that it is now possible to import cattle food, the production of butter in Finland now exceeds the domestic requirements.

SWEDISH IMPORT AND EXPORT

Complete returns for Swedish imports and exports during the year 1919 are now issued. Exports

amounted to 1,308.4 million kroner, as compared with 1,151.5 millions in 1918, and imports rose to 2,022.3 millions, against 774.2 the year before. The excess of imports over exports was thus 713.9 million kroner. This unfavorable trade balance has created the appreciable depreciation of late in the comparative value of the Swedish kroner, which had stood above par throughout the war, when exports exceeded imports. The reduced importation during the war years necessitated large imports as soon as trade facilities were resumed after peace, and the excess of payments to be made abroad created a corresponding rise in the rates of exchange with the countries in which these payments had to be made.

FINNISH CABLE SERVICE

Business in Finland has lately had to cope with considerable difficulties on account of congestion on the telegraph cables; the volume of telegraphic correspondence abroad has increased since the beginning of the war by 700 per cent, and the only cable, belonging to the Great Northern Telegraph Company, which was available for Finnish correspondence, has proved quite inadequate. This company owns three more cables between Finland and Sweden, but they were reserved for Russian correspondence. In the autumn of 1919, however, one of them was opened for Finnish use, and now the Finnish Government has concluded a contract with the Great Northern for the use of a third cable, which should be sufficient for present needs.

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SHIPPING NOTES

THE "AFRICA"

The largest motor ship ever built has recently been laid down in Copenhagen by Messrs. Burmeister and Wain for the East Asiatic Company. The *Africa* is of 18,000 tons d. w., with dimensions of 445 x 60 x 42 feet, three Diesel-driven generators, and a speed of some 11½ knots. The ship will have no funnels, and all auxiliary machinery will be driven by electric motors. Twenty passengers can be carried. The *Africa* will trade with Japan, through the Panama and back via the Suez Canal.

PORT OF STOCKHOLM

Stockholm seems to be becoming more and more an important Baltic point. In January alone one hundred steamers arrived from abroad, of which one third came from Great Britain; from North and South America there were in all eleven ships, with cargoes of wheat, oils, phosphates, and piece goods. The quays became considerably congested by the volume of the cargoes.

CRITICIZES STATE CONTROL

The 1919 report of the Transatlantic Shipping Company criticizes state regulation of shipping as a bar to free development. One result indicated is that Sweden has on the ways only 50,000 tons of ship-building compared to 2,000,000 tons under construction of Norway, part of which is being built in Great Britain. However, the dividends of the Transatlantic Company increased from 30 per cent in 1917 to 50 per cent in 1918 and 1919.

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